

Message Text

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TAGS:SOPN,US,PARM

SUBJECT:PRESS MATERIALS

1. HERewith FULL TEXT, DAVID BINDER, PAGE 11 , SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, HEADED FORD PLANS TO ISSUE NUCLEAR GUIDELINES - OFFICIALS LINK POLICY STATEMENT TO IMPENDING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION AND CHALLENGE BY CARTER.
2. PRESIDENT FORD IS PREPARING TO MAKE A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT SOON SETTING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR UNITED STATES NUCLEAR POLICY, THREE HIGH-RANKING ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS REPORTED TODAY.
3. THEY SAID THE STATEMENT WOULD BE ISSUED TO MEET MOUNTING PRESSURE FROM CONGRESS, WHICH IS CONSIDERING LEGISLATION RESTRICTING AMERICAN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS, AND TO TAKE THE NUCLEAR POLICY ISSUE AWAY FROM JIMMY CARTER, THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER.

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4. A PRESIDENTIAL STUDY GROUP HEADED BY ROBERT W. FRI, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION, COMPLETED A 50-PAGE REPORT ON NUCLEAR POLICY OPTIONS LAST TUESDAY AFTER SIX WEEKS' WORK.

5. THE OFFICIALS SAID THE FRI REPORT WOULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR WHITE HOUSE DRAFTING OF MR. FORD'S STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH THEY NOTED THAT SEVERAL OF THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS WERE BEING DISPUTED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH NUCLEAR POLICY.

6. THE OFFICIALS WHO DISCUSSED THE FRI REPORT WERE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION.

7. ONE OFFICIAL SAID A NUMBER OF FACTORS HAD COINCIDED TO GIVE URGENCY TO MR. FORD'S CONSIDERATION OF A NEW AND THOROUGH STATEMENT OF THE NATION'S NEEDS ON NUCLEAR POLICY.

8. OF THE CHALLENGE BY MR. CARTER HE SAID: THE WHITE HOUSE IS CLEARLY APPREHENSIVE THAT CARTER MIGHT PRE-EMPT THE NUCLEAR ISSUE IN THE CAMPAIGN - HE ALREADY MADE A BIG SPEECH ON THE SUBJECT ON MAY 13.

9. AS FOR CONGRESS, THE OFFICIAL NOTED THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE UP A BILL TOMORROW ON "NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE PROLIFERATION" WITH A PROSPECT OF SHARPLY LIMITING FOREIGN SALES OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND ATOMIC FUELS.

10. SENATOR JOHN O. PASTORE, THE RHODE ISLAND DEMOCRAT WHO HEADS THE COMMITTEE, DECLARED EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT HE INTENDED TO HAVE CONGRESS ACT ON A NONPROLIFERATION BILL BEFORE IT ADJOURNS NEXT MONTH.

11. IN ADDITION, THE OFFICIAL SAID, THE FORD ADMINISTRATION HAS BECOME CONCERNED ABOUT THREATS BY GIANT AMERICAN NUCLEAR CONCERNS TO CURB INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE OF PENDING GOVERNMENTAL STRICTURES.

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12. OF EQUAL AND RELATED CONCERN TO THE ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID, WAS THE GROWING SENTIMENT AMONG FOREIGN IMPORTERS OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT AND FUEL THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NO LONGER A RELIABLE PARTNER FOR THEIR OWN ATOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

13. "OUR NUCLEAR POLICY HAS BEEN IN A MUDDLE FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS", THE OFFICIAL, WHO IS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT,

SAID. WHILE PRAISING CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE FOR MAKING NUCLEAR POLICY A PRIME CONSIDERATION, HE SAID HE WAS WORRIED NOW ABOUT "MAKING A POLICY FOR 10 YEARS IN 10 DAYS."

14. THE THREE OFFICIALS SAID A CENTRAL ASPECT OF THE FRI REPORT DEALT WITH THE CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR

FUEL REPROCESSING, WHICH, IN THE PRESENT STATE OF TECHNOLOGY, CREATES PLUTONIUM AS AN ADJUNCT TO THE ENRICHED URANIUM USED TO RUN ATOMIC POWER REACTORS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY.

15. SINCE PLUTONIUM IS THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ATOMIC BOMBS AMERICAN POLICYMAKERS HAVE BECOME WARRY OF ANY STEPS THAT MIGHT LEAD TO A PROLIFERATION OF FACILITIES DEVOTED TO THE MAKING OF PLUTONIUM. BUT LARGE-SCALE COMMERCIAL FUEL RECYCLING HAS YET TO PROVE ECONOMICALLY RATIONAL.

16. THE OFFICIALS SAID A MAJORITY VIEW AMONG THE DRAFTERS OF THE FRI REPORT HOLDS THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD AUTHORIZE COMPLETION OF A DEMONSTRATION REPROCESSING PLANT TO SEE WHETHER A "PLUTONIUM ECONOMY" WAS BOTH FEASIBLE AND DESIRABLE.

17. THEY SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD THEN HAVE THE OPTIONS OF OFFERING REPROCESSING SERVICES TO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR THEIR SPENT URANIUM FUEL, OF CREATING AN INTERNATIONAL REPROCESSING FACILITY, OR OF SIMPLY SELLING REPROCESSED FUEL.

18. A MINORITY VIEW, STRONGLY REPRESENTED BY THE ARMS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY, HOLDS THAT SINCE PLUTONIUM IS A DANGEROUSLY SENSITIVE COMMODITY, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD DEFER DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC REPROCESSING.

19. INSTEAD, THE MINORITY VIEW SAYS, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONSIDER GUARANTEEING URANIUM FUEL SUPPLIES FOR OTHER COUNTRIES WHILE WORKING TO DEVELOP ALTERNATE FUEL TECHNOLOGIES AVOIDING THE MANUFACTURE OF PLUTONIUM.

20. JIMMY CARTER, IN HIS MAY SPEECH TO THE UNITED NATIONS, SUPPORTED THIS VIEW IN CALLING FOR "A MORATORIUM" ON REPROCESSING.

21. OTHER ASPECTS OF THE FRI REPORT DEALING WITH IMPROVED NUCLEAR EXPORT CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS WERE DESCRIBED BY

THE OFFICIALS AS BEING LESS IN DISPUTE WITHIN THE
ADMINISTRATION.

22. THE PRESIDENTIAL STUDY GROUP HEADED BY MR. FRI INCLUDED
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
ADMINISTRATION, THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY,
THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND THE STATE DEPART-
MENT. ITS REPORT IS BEING REVIEWED BY THOSE AGENCIES

AS WELL AS BY THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, THE
INTERIOR, COMMERCE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS, THE ENVIRONMEN-
TAL PROTECTION AGENCY, THE FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION,
THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND THE NATIONAL SCIENCE
FOUNDATION.

23. THE STUDY GROUP WAS IN PART A RESPONSE TO PRODDING BY
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN B. ANDERSON, REPUBLICAN OF ILLINOIS,
WHO ASKED PRESIDENT FORD TO GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION TO
PRESSING NUCLEAR ISSUES, INCLUDING REPROCESSING, IN A
LETTER LAST SPRING.

24. MR. ANDERSON DRAFTED THE HOUSE BILL ON PROLIFERATION
THAT IS BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY IN
PARTIAL COOPERATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

25. IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW, MR. ANDERSON SAID HE BELIEVED
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THAT THE FRI REPORT WOULD CULMINATE IN "A MAJOR STATEMENT
BY THE PRESIDENT ON NUCLEAR POLICY."

26. HE SAID "IT IS MY HOPE" THAT MR FORD WOULD TAKE HIS
NUCLEAR MESSAGE BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
WHICH OPENS SEPTEMBER 21 IN NEW YORK. ROBINSON

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